

Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

Richmond – North Richmond – San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan Community  
Steering Committee Just Transition Standing Committee Community Workshop

July 28, 2025, 5:15 P.M

### **1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

The Richmond – North Richmond – San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan  
Community Steering Committee (CSC or Committee) Co-Chair Marisol Cantó called the  
meeting to order at 5:18 PM.

Present: Co-Chair Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Co-Chair Nancy Aguirre, Co-Chair Marisol  
Cantó, Luna Angulo-Castro, Y’anad Burrell, Sandra Castaneda, Suzanne  
Coffee, Shaun Cotten, Bryana Gastelum, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha  
Gruelle, Lizbeth Ibarra, Jeffrey Kilbreth, Joseph Kosciński, Jessica Range,  
Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Althea Skinner, Ariel Xi, Beverly Dynes  
(non-voting), Emily Warming (non-voting), BK White (non-voting), Hakim  
Johnson (non-voting)

Absent: Kerry Guerin, Samir Shrestha, Simren Sandhu,

Also Present: Air District Staff: Karissa White, Nina Garde, Diana Ruiz, Joelle Toney,  
Chad White, Barry Young, Janet Carrasco, Brian Butler, Grace Leung, Jamal  
Jackson, Laura Cackette, Ellie Porciuncula, Marcia Raymond, Dan Alrick,  
Amy Smith, Ayah Hassan, Viet Tran; Mijin Cha (Panelist), Tracy Scott  
(Panelist); Acterra staff; Tony M (Interpreter); Local Government Staff and  
Members of the Public: Mark Williams, Nicole A. Heath, Russell Lowery,  
Adam S., Mike Dreiling, Kauna Rubio, Cuauhtema Gastelum, Erika  
Triniman, Kevin G Hernandez, Kate Hoag, Michael Gliksohn, Catherine Barr,  
Andrew Melendez, Ryan Munns, Marco DM, Janet Johnson, Kyndelle  
Johnson, Sue Wilson, Maurice L. Jones, Dion Simoni, Linda Olvera, Danielle  
Sumler, Alyson Greenlee, Sandra Castaneda, Cat Keisling, Princess Robinson,  
Jocelyn Anaya, Louis Flores, Tarnel Abbott, Santiago Aguilar, Craig  
Kometani-Dittmann, Joe Gyenyame, Emily Chan, Caitlin Parino, Angel  
(BoilerMakers Local 549)

## **2. OPENING AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

00:02:35

### Committee Comment

None

### Committee Action

None; receive and file.

### Public Comments

None

## **3. JUST TRANSITION STANDING COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS**

00:08:40

Members of the Just Transition Standing Committee (JTSC) present in-person and virtually introduced themselves and provided brief summaries of their backgrounds and roles on the CSC.

### Committee Comment

None

### Committee Action

None; receive and file.

### Public Comments

None

## **4. JUST TRANSITION EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION WORKSHOP**

00:12:45

Committee member Shaun Cotten led a presentation that began with an introduction to Assembly Bill (AB)617, continued on to outline and review community-identified pollution concerns, then provided an overview of the Path to Clean Air (PTCA), followed by a discussion of what is and isn't Just Transition, and the role of the CSC in supporting and facilitating a Just Transition. Committee member Cotten pointed out that one purpose of the Workshop was to gather feedback; he then introduced and reviewed the list of nine principles that the JTSC members had developed to guide efforts toward achieving a Just Transition:

- Safeguard community health across generations
- Transition workers to clean, green, just jobs
- Invest in communities impacted by extraction
- Strengthen enforcement, refinery safety, and government accountability
- Fund just and community-led clean energy and resilient infrastructure

- Align deep democracy and community-driven governance with living systems
- Prioritize reparations, toxic cleanup, and ecosystem restoration
- Advance transportation justice and build walkable, bikeable, transit-rich communities
- Uplift culture, ceremony, intersectionality, and leadership from frontline communities

Committee member Cotten’s closing thought:

What is a Just Transition?

A community-led movement to protect our people, heal our lands, and transform the systems that no longer serve us.

Committee Comment

None

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

**5. QUESTIONS AND COMMUNITY INTERACTION**

00:32:30

Committee member Derebew Shankute fielded and moderated questions from Workshop attendees.

Public Comments

A community member, Louis Flores, asked whether the CSC was focused exclusively on Richmond or if it included Benicia? Committee member Cotten said that Benicia was highlighted during his presentation because the refinery there had received a letter saying it was closing in a year; the CSC is focused on Richmond - North Richmond - San Pablo but is watching what’s happening in Benicia – how it’s handled, what mistakes are made, what do the workers need, what does the community need, etc.?

Mr. Flores asked whether the CSC is aware of or has any contact with the Contra Costa County Green Empowerment Zone? Committee member Cotten replied that he was aware of the organization but was unaware that the CSC had had any contact with it.

Mr. Flores’s final question was, if he had questions in the future, could information be shared as to how he could get them answered. Committee member Cotten replied that information for contacting the Air District would be made available.

Community member Tarnel Abbot observed that there was a huge toxic legacy affecting residents’ health from many sources and industries, then asked whether the CSC is interested only in pollution from oil refineries or other sources as well? Committee member Cotten replied that the Air District is concerned with all stationary sources of air pollution, including gas

stations, port facilities, etc., but the refineries receive a lot of attention because of its large impact on the tax base.

A community member, Michael Gliksohn of the Richmond Progressive Alliance, asked where the money was going to come from to create the jobs to replace the jobs that are going to be lost? Committee member Cotten replied that it will take time. New businesses will have to open, new sources of tax revenue will need to be found.

A community member, Ryan Munns with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, asked what sort of feedback would be sought from the community as the Air District moved toward meeting goals? Committee member Cotten replied that outreach to the community had been conducted and further outreach would occur to ask the community how it wanted funds to be spent as plans moved forward. Committee member Cotten indicated that one source of funds would be fines levied on marine polluters, tire shops, etc., and the community would have input as to how funds would be used.

Attendees were reminded that if they had further questions, online they could put into the chat or in person they could take them to an Air District staff member.

#### Committee Comment

None

#### Committee Action

None; none receive and file.

## **6. MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION**

00:45:10

As moderator, Committee member Luna Angulo-Castro introduced three panelists:

- Professor Mijin Cha
- Retired President USW Local 5, Tracy Scott
- Committee member Bryana Gastelum

Three questions were asked of the panelists, the first being, “Why should people care about Just Transition?”

Professor Cha gave three reasons why people should care:

- Only if the effort is centered in the community and the community is leading it can the transition be just
- The only way to guarantee a transition away from fossil fuels is through community power
- We should be asking for more and we deserve more from our elected officials; the communities must reclaim resources that fundamentally and inherently belong to them. Unless it comes from the ground up, it will never be a Just Transition

Tracy Scott discussed that he comes from organizations (unions) that build from the bottom up and our problem is that we are confronting an industry that developed without our input. Inviting input into the process of how to get out of this situation is important for workers and the community.

Committee member Bryana Gastelum pointed out that transition is inevitable but justice is not. All the issues that have been mentioned, such as jobs, cleanup, and what comes must be answered and the community should be involved. A Just Transition also involves reimagining the systems that shape our daily lives, from our economy to education to our food. If we don't engage we risk other people making these decisions for us. If we do get involved we have the opportunity to shape what happens according to our hopes and dreams.

The second question: "As we phase out fossil fuels, what are you excited for or least excited about?"

Professor Cha said she and everyone could be excited that winding down fossil fuels would result in huge reductions in pollution levels, particularly for communities that had carried the burden, and it presented an opportunity to proactively create a vision for the future. However, she is concerned that we are replacing fossil fuels with another extraction-based system, such as lithium mining. Just Transition should be the elimination of extraction of all kinds.

Tracy Scott mentioned that one of the challenges is that people the unions represent see their lives through a certain prism that it's taken 100 years to develop and nothing they have was given willingly by the corporate entities they confronted. He sees this as an opportunity to develop high quality labor standards locally and across the state of California. He is concerned about the timeline: there is so much to be done in a short time and he feels that not a lot of action yet.

Committee member Bryana Gatelum expressed her excitement to see more community agency and ownership, and to see people living on the fencelines becoming active and benefiting from the energy systems being built. She is most concerned by climate false solutions that seek to prolong fossil fuel use, but also concerned for people such as her neighbors who have an auto body repair shop and therefore dependent on the petroleum industry for their jobs.

The third question: "How can people get involved in the Just Transition work going on today?"

Professor Cha emphasized the importance of organizing to build the base to push decision-makers to do what they need to do. Public officials work for the public; we should demand much more of them. Don't be afraid to be annoying.

Tracy Scott: "don't agonize, organize." Build membership. Find vocal advocates to speak the message loud, often and to the right people. Stay in the face of anybody and everybody who can influence your outcomes.

Committee member Bryana Gatelum: tap into the work of community-based organizations who are already doing the work on the ground, such as APEN and Urban Tilth. Broaden understanding of Just Transition to include topics like housing and the groups working on issues like displacement, right to return, unhoused people, and safe return for the incarcerated. What does Just Transition look like in your neighborhood and how do you want to be involved?

Committee member Luna Angulo-Castro offered the panelists an opportunity to add any further remarks.

Professor Cha stressed that no one is underestimating the size of the challenge being faced. We cannot move to the future we want by abandoning immigrants and those who have been marginalized. While critical values are difficult at the moment, now is the time to have a transformative, ambitious vision. We deserve a just future. A just future for all is better if we don't leave anybody behind, and if we don't leave anybody behind, we have more people with us. This meeting is a good start. We are not alone. We just have to claim what is ours.

Tracy Scott discussed his experience with the closure of the Marathon facility in 2022, when he said workers were caught flat-footed and there was a lot of harm done to the community and the workers. Words, intentions and actions must all be congruent. You must get focused and be direct about what you want to do.

Committee member Bryana Gatelum: Just Transition work in Richmond is connected globally to struggles against fossil fuels and injustice. No one is free until we're all free. Just Transition is a global commitment to fighting injustice. It starts with how we treat each other, how we organize, and how we vote.

#### Committee Comment

None

#### Committee Action

None; receive and file.

#### Public Comments

None

## **7. MODERATED PANEL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

01:03:30

Committee members Derebew Shankute and Luna Angulo-Castro fielded and moderated questions from Workshop attendees.

#### Public Comments

Community member Louis Flores asked about next steps. Is what happens after this substantial or not substantial?

Community member Michael Dreiling, and a member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, asked whether workers being transitioned to other work will be transitioned into comparable, survivable incomes or left to tread water? There are about 5,000 union jobs involved across several unions.

Tracy Scott replied that workers from Marathon ended up in jobs that paid about 75% of what they made before with benefits and retirement not equal to what they had previously. He emphasized that work needs to begin now to ensure that the same thing doesn't happen to

workers again. More notice must be given; Marathon workers only received two months notice; one year is better. Professor Cha added that the goal should be that every job should be a good job; if every job is a good job it makes transitions easier.

Community member Catherine Barr asked if workers near the top at their current jobs will need to start from the bottom and work their way up again if transitioned?

Tracy Scott answered from the perspective of the unions, that union halls will dispatch members to employers and jobs that meet their skill levels. But he continued, that approach doesn't answer the question whether enough good jobs will exist for workers to be sent to. Without economic development of other good jobs there will be far fewer good jobs available for the displaced workers. It is incumbent on everyone to force their local, state and federal electeds to fix the problem. Changing the energy policy of the state should not put the local tax base or livelihoods in jeopardy. Everybody should be entitled to good-quality jobs in whatever industry they choose to go into.

Community member Ryan Munns asked if any research or planning had been done so that Richmond didn't end up like the refinery in Philadelphia or Marathon? He added that if workers wanted to be part of the solution they also needed to pitch in.

Tracy Scott described how, following closure of the Marathon Refinery, workers joined the Contra Costa County Refinery Transition Partnership. The Partnership worked with APEN and the Blue Green Alliance to study Philadelphia and Marathon and developed a list of recommendations, which were included in Shaun Cotten's presentation during this workshop. The Partnership is making recommendations to local and state electeds about what can be done to get ahead of this. Planning is needed and Tracy Scott agrees with Ryan Munns that everyone needs to get involved – lending our energy, our intelligence and our voices. Professor Cha mentioned that there is a state Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Fund, but more is needed. Professor Cha also agreed more planning is needed.

Tracy Scott mentioned “There is a Super Fund to clean up contaminated sites but no Super Fund to help workers when we ask them to transition.”

Co-Chair Marisol Cantó thanked the union members for attending the workshop, then asked whether union dues were being directed toward more than just training for new jobs, but also training to create a “worker safety net?”

Tracy Scott replied that the unions were advocating at the state level to qualify and document workers' skill sets and release of training materials, many of which are proprietary to the employers.

Community member Michael Gliksohn asked if there was any elected official or elected body that had the authority to tell Chevron what will be required of them when the decision is made to shut down?

Tracy Scott responded that the decision to close the refinery will be a business decision made by the company, based on market factors. Professor Cha mentioned that it's possible to set up a national plan that would allow for a managed decline of refining capacity.

### Committee Comments

Co-Chair Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso summarized the purpose of the Workshop as getting everyone in the mindset of thinking about Just Transition – how to get organized to move things forward. Dr. Omotoso urged the importance of everyone getting involved now, to put pressure on elected officials to make needed policy changes, to begin working on now to determine the community’s future.

Committee member BK White introduced himself as the Policy Director for Mayor Martinez of Richmond spoke to address the issue as to whether the City of Richmond was looking at the future. He described how the City had put forward a ballot to make polluters pay, and that the current City Council was working to diversify the economy and have good union jobs. The Mayor has said that the City must always look out for workers. “A job is not a job is not a job; it must be at a living wage with good benefits.”

### Committee Action

None; receive and file.

## **8. COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS AND ACTIVITY**

01:22:40

In-person attendees broke into two groups that met separately, each to discuss three of the Just Transition Principles previously identified:

Group 1:

- Invest in communities impacted by extraction
- Align deep democracy and community-driven governance with living systems
- Prioritize reparations, toxic cleanup, and ecosystem restoration

Group 2:

- Strengthen enforcement, refinery safety, and government accountability
- Advance transportation justice and build walkable, bikeable, transit-rich communities
- Uplift culture, ceremony, intersectionality, and leadership from frontline communities

Virtual attendees met in a group to discuss the following three Just Transition Principles:

- Safeguard community health across generations
- Transition workers to clean, green, just jobs
- Fund just and community-led clean energy and resilient infrastructure

### Committee Comment

None

### Committee Action

None; receive and file.

## Public Comments

None

## **9. REPORT BACK**

01:54:45

Co-Chair Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso indicated that his group had discussed the principles as a whole and there was a feeling that the word “just” needed to be broadened since the concept included so much more than good jobs.

The group moderated by Committee member Derebew Shankute emphasized the importance of financing and money being available to fund Just Transition priorities. All workers, not just displaced refinery workers, must have access to good jobs, and the extractive and polluting industries must be made to pay for cleaning up the land.

The third group felt that industry has too many seats at the table; management tends to be at the center of safety and enforcement conversations instead of the workers. Words like intersectionality need further definition.

## Committee Comment

None

## Committee Action

None; receive and file.

## Public Comments

None

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLOSING**

01:59:15

It was announced that a post meeting survey will be sent to attendees via email and the next CSC meeting will be held on August 25. The meeting was adjourned by Luna Angulo-Castro at 7:16 PM.

Minutes prepared by Acterra